

Under current rules set by the FCC for XM and Sirius, it does not prohibit these companies to set aside channels, that everyone who has the service from coast to coast, to transmit localized traffic and weather reports for specific metropolitan areas. The National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) feel that XM and Sirius are breaking the rules by doing traffic and weather reports, hence breaking the "national" service that XM and Sirius is suppose to do. Both XM and Sirius have set aside 20 to 30 channels for these reports, being transmitted throughout the United States on both their Satellites and repeater network. They are not taking the reports for, say, Washington D.C., and only transmitting it on the local repeater network. They are using the satellites and repeaters to transmit the audio. And as previously ruled by the FCC, this is perfectly legal. I live in the Columbus, Ohio area, but let's say I am planning on visiting Chicago, IL, which both XM and Sirius has traffic and weather reports for. It is nice to tune in to that channel a day or two before my visit to hear the weather report for the next few days before arriving along with listening to the traffic reports so I can hear where the construction areas are before getting there, so I can adjust my route accordingly. I would not be able to do this because I am out of range of all Chicago stations, including the Clear Channel AM's (WLS, WGN, WSCR). There is nothing wrong that XM and Sirius is doing with this service. The NAB is afraid of the competition, and afraid of the fast growth of both services, and feel threatened by it, and that is why they are always complaining about the services. Local broadcasters are not going away with this service that XM and Sirius is doing. There will always be a need for local broadcasters. I have XM, and have had it since December, 2001, and I work for a radio station as well. I still listen to my local stations for news, weather, traffic, and other stuff that I cannot get from XM. Cable TV did not harm the local TV stations, and XM and Sirius will not hurt local broadcasters as well.